

**Minutes From a Meeting of the Concordia Council on Student Life
Held on September 17, 1999
Loyola Campus AD 131 10:00am**

Present: Dr. D. Boisvert, Chair, Ms J. Hackett, Secretary, Mr. B. Boncore, Mr. R. Côté, Ms M. Drew, Dr. S.M. Graub, Mr. C. Jacob, Ms Sheryl Navidad, Ms A. Kerby, Ms T. Ryan, Dr. F. Shaver, Mr. H. Zarins, Ms C. Boujaklian, Mr. W. Curran, Ms K. Hedrich, Ms L. Lipscombe, Ms L. Toscano

Absent with Regrets: Dr. J. Jans, Mr. B. MacIver, Ms C. Hedrich, Mr. D. Prejli

Delegates: Mr. P. Aube represented Mr. V. Francisco

Guests: Mr. B. Vroom, Mr. D. Hinton, Mr. K. Pruden, Ms M. Karski, Mr. C. Emond

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Dr. Boisvert informed Council that item 8.2 – The Draft Policy on Demonstrations would probably be available only for the October CCSL meeting. A motion to approve the agenda as amended was made by Ms Ryan, seconded by Mr. Zarins.

The Motion was carried unanimously

2. REMARKS FROM THE CHAIR

On behalf of Council Dr. Boisvert extended a warm welcome to the new Director of Health Services, Ms Melanie Drew. He also took the opportunity to welcome all members back to Council for another year.

Dr. Boisvert informed Council that the 25th anniversary pen and pencil set was a gift courtesy of the Concordia Bookstores. He thanked Ms Lipscombe for her generous contribution.

Dr. Boisvert noted that the University Student Life Orientation Program and the CSU Orientation Activities were both highly successful and offered congratulations on behalf of Council.

Dr. Boisvert was also pleased to report that two Concordia students, Ms Suzanne Bate and Mr. Miguel Da Costa Frias, are Force Avenir Award finalists. The winners will be announced October 6th.

1999-2000 is the last year of the three-year Student Services Budget cycle. Dr. Boisvert reminded council that shortly into the New Year, they would be deliberating a new three-year Budget (2000-2003) for Student Services.

Dr. Boisvert encouraged all members of Council - students, staff and faculty - to participate in the annual Concordia Shuffle on September 24th.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF APRIL 23, 1999

A motion to approve the minutes was made Dr. Graub and seconded by Mr. Côté.

The Motion was carried unanimously

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Dr. Boisvert informed Council that, as Dr. Jans was not able to attend the CCSL meeting, he had sent an update on the issue discussed at the April 23rd CCSL meeting of whether questionnaires for program evaluation must be reviewed by HREC. The following is the full interpretation from the National Council on Ethics in Human Research: “.....studies related directly to assessing the performance of an organization or its employees or students, within the mandate of the organization or according to the terms and conditions of employment or training, should also not be subject to REB (Research Ethics Board) review. However, performance reviews or studies that contain an element of research in addition to assessment may need ethics review.” In light of this Dr. Jans felt that a straightforward program evaluation would not have to be reviewed. However when in doubt it's always best to contact the University's HREC.

Dr. Boisvert informed Council that the Refurbishing of the Mezzanine project was proceeding. Barring any unforeseen problems, it is hoped that a new and improved Mezz will be in operation by January 2000.

4.1 I/EAC Review Committee: Dr. Boisvert drew Council's attention to the report submitted by the I/EAC Review Committee. He reminded Council that at the March CCSL meeting, in response to a number of questions raised, Council had asked for a working group to review the I/EAC and its relationship with the Dean of Students Office. The committee was asked to present a report to CCSL at the first meeting in the Fall. Dr. Boisvert asked Mr. Pruden as chair of the committee to speak to the issue. Mr. Pruden said the committee was comprised of Mr. Côté, Director of Socio-Economic Services, Ms Lousyse Lussier, Dean of Students Office, Ms Monika Karski, I/EAC President and Mr. David Hinton, CCSL student representative. The committee was directed to examine the administrative relationship which currently exists between the I/EAC and the Dean of Students office, and to determine whether this relationship should continue in its present form. Mr. Pruden said the committee met several times over the spring and summer. There were extensive discussions about all aspects of the I/EAC as well as discussions about the different options for the future of I/EAC. Although the committee felt strongly that the contribution of the I/EAC to the University community was of great value, a majority of the committee (four out of five) agreed that the current relationship should be changed. The reasons behind this position were the question of equity between student groups and the concern over the philosophical and logical consistency of having a student association actually administered as a university department. The dissenting voice on the committee was that of the I/EAC representative. Ms Karski expressed concern that the autonomy now enjoyed by the I/EAC, both financial and the sense of being an independent association, would be jeopardized. Ms Karski felt strongly that the I/EAC's long-term survivability would be at risk if its status were changed. Ms Karski also informed Council that the presidents of all the I/EAC associations were unanimous in their wish to remain under the Dean of Students. She also said the I/EAC had reservations about being recognized under the CSU as she felt that the mandate of the CSU and the I/EAC might be at odds. Mr. Jacob offered to meet with Ms Karski to discuss any concerns she may have with respect to the CSU. Both Mr. Hinton and Mr. Côté reiterated that Council recognized the value and importance of

I/EAC to the community and that the restructuring would strive to ensure the future of I/EAC at Concordia and take into account any financial concerns. Mr. Côté suggested that perhaps another working group, with a broader mandate and expanded membership, should be struck to discuss the modalities of this change. The membership would be drawn from CCSL, Dean of Students, I/EAC and CSU.

Ms Kerby, seconded by Mr. Côté, proposed the following motion:

Whereas CCSL endorses the I/EAC Working Group's majority recommendation to revise the relationship between CCSL and I/EAC;

Be it resolved that the CCSL Working Group continue with an expanded mandate and membership to deal with the modalities of the change and the issue of funding. The committee would report back to CCSL with a progress report in October 1999.

Mr. Pruden, as chair of the working group, asked if this committee was empowered to negotiate change or submit proposals to CCSL. Mr. Côté felt that a brokered arrangement should be brought back to CCSL. Dr. Boisvert said it is Council's hope that the I/EAC participate in this process rather than have changes imposed with no input. Dr. Boisvert asked Council if it was ready to vote on the motion. As there was no objection, the motion was put to vote.

The Motion was carried unanimously

4.2 Student Participation in University Governance: Dr. Boisvert drew Council's attention to the report, which had been previously distributed. Mr. Pruden briefly explained how he conducted his research into this issue. He pursued two informal lines of inquiry. Through discussions on the topic with faculty, staff and students at Concordia, it was clear that student participation was desirable but difficult to ensure. There was more enthusiasm for some form of remuneration from the students than from the faculty and staff. After contacting Dean of Students/Student Services offices at several Canadian universities, Mr. Pruden determined that no tangible "rewards" are offered, although the University of Manitoba makes an official mention of such participation on an "annex" to a student's transcript. A discussion followed on the options available in considering the question of encouraging and rewarding student participation. It became apparent as the discussion ensued that Council had concerns and questions that could not be answered at this time. It was decided that a small working group under Mr. Pruden be struck to further investigate this issue. The working group would be composed of Mr. Pruden, as chair, 1 Student Services Director, 1 representative from the Registrar, 3 undergraduate students, 1 graduate student and 1 Faculty member. Council agreed that it would be beneficial if the committee could identify as soon as possible what could be easily implemented now to foster student involvement.

4.3 CSU Job Bank & Off-Campus Housing Report 98-99: Mr. Côté explained that as CSU Job Bank & Off-Campus Housing Report for 98-99 had not been received by year-end, only half (\$10,000) of the subsidy from CCSL had been transferred to CSU. In order to receive the balance (\$10,600) of the 98-99 subsidy, CSU was asked to submit the report for the first CCSL meeting of 99-2000. This report is now presented for Council's consideration. Ms Navidad, CSU V.P. Finance, spoke briefly

about the needs of the Job Bank and Off-Campus Housing Service. There was a specific need to upgrade the services at Loyola, especially with the opening of the International College at Loyola. Dr. Boisvert noted that a financial statement for 98-99 was not included in the report. Ms Navidad apologized for the oversight. Dr. Boisvert suggested that this issue be tabled for October 29th CCSL meeting and asked that a financial statement be forwarded to him for distribution to Council. He also took the opportunity to remind CSU that any requests for funding for 2000-2003 should be submitted as soon as possible.

5. Reports

Dr. Boisvert reminded the Directors that written reports to CCSL are submitted twice a year (December and March). Dr. Boisvert also explained that traditionally at each CCSL meeting, a short presentation is made by one of the student services directors and one of the observers. It was decided that the Dean of Students Office and the Birks Student Service Centre would make presentations in October.

6. Student Life Issues

Ms Ryan asked for an update on the shuttle bus scheduling difficulties. Dr. Shaver said that overcrowding of the shuttle bus was discussed at Faculty Council. It was perceived as a real problem and a deterrent to students who wished to take courses at Loyola. Ms Boujakian agreed that September has been a difficult month as enrollment is up and financial constraints are a reality. She said the buses were now leaving every 25 minutes and that buses would also leave when they were full. A suggestion was made that if a bus leaves early, there should be a notice informing the community when the next shuttle bus is. Council felt that there should better preparation to deal effectively with the September rush. A revised schedule can then be implemented with the proper knowledge of traffic patterns.

Mr. Jacob had some concerns concerning the escalators in the Hall building. If Security could "direct traffic" when an elevator is out of order, he felt a lot of the problems could be alleviated and a safer environment would be ensured. He also questioned why the elevators were always serviced during the day when usage is the heaviest. Ms Boujakian informed Council that an outside company handles the maintenance for the elevators. Therefore, due to financial considerations, it is beneficial if the maintenance of the elevators is done during regular business hours. However, she agreed to investigate the variations in the cost. Dr. Shaver suggested bigger and better signage for the stairwells, as the stairs could be a good alternative if the community was aware of their locations.

Ms Karski felt that the physical capacity of classrooms is limiting classes. Ms Toscano said every year Registrar's loses classrooms for various reasons. However, she said there are empty classrooms at Loyola if Professors would agree to teach there. Dr. Boisvert informed Council that the issue of classroom space had been discussed at Rector's Advisory Group and was being looked at.

Mr. Hinton asked for an update of the re-lamping of the Hall Building. Ms Boujakian will report back on that issue at the October meeting.

7. REPORT FROM THE CHAIR OF THE RECREATION & ATHLETICS BOARD

Ms Kerby has been chair of this Board for the last two years. Dr. Boisvert informed Council that she has agreed to stay on for one more year as his delegate. Ms Kerby said the Board was in the process of filling the vacant student seats. Once that has been completed, the first meeting can be scheduled.

8. NEW BUSINESS

8.1 Student Services Year-End Financial Statement: Dr. Boisvert drew Council's attention to the revised Financial Statement for 1998-1999 that was distributed. He noted that Student Services had an overall surplus of \$264,139 (this surplus includes covering the Recreation & Athletics deficit of \$35,733.00). In the current three-year budget, there was a projected deficit of \$224,000 for the year 99-2000. Therefore Council may wish to discuss the allocation of the \$40,000 balance. Dr. Boisvert also noted that the University Financial Office verifies these figures. Dr. Boisvert asked if Council had questions concerning the statement. Council had no questions.

Mr. Zarins submitted to Council a revised financial statement for Recreation & Athletics. According to the figures Mr. Zarins obtained from CUFS, his year-end deficit is \$11,043. He also informed Council he did not receive his workstudy subsidy for 98-99 in the amount of \$10,000. Therefore, Mr. Zarins feels his actual deficit is \$1,043.00. However, Financial Services does not agree with his revised figures. As Mr. Zarins was not satisfied with their explanation, Dr. Boisvert said that a more detailed explanation might have to be requested from Financial Services.

Dr. Boisvert said a proposed 3-year budget (2000-2003) would be presented for Council's approval in the New Year.

8.2. Draft Policy on Demonstrations: The Draft Policy on Demonstrations was not available for the September CCSL meeting.

8.3. Appointments to CCSL Special Projects: The composition of the Special Projects Committee is as follows: Dr. Boisvert (or his delegate) as chair, Ms Ryan, graduate student, Ms Sheryll Navidad, undergraduate student, Mr. Peter Taylor, undergraduate student.

9. NEXT MEETING: Friday, October 29th, 1999 SGW Campus H 769 10:00am

10. TERMINATION OF MEETING

A motion to terminate the meeting was made by Mr. Jacob and seconded by Mr. Côté.

The Motion was carried